

Remarks

Claims 1-11 and 15-40 are currently pending in the Application and Claims 16 and 29 are canceled herein without prejudice.

Telephone conference

Applicants thank the Examiner for the many courtesies extended during the telephone conference held on January 27, 2006.

Allowable Claims

Applicants acknowledge with gratitude the Examiner's indication of allowability as to Claims 1-11, 16-25, 29-38 and 40.

Summary of claim amendments

This response amends Claim 15 to recite features of Claim 16 found patentable by the Examiner. No new matter has been added.

This response amends Claims 28 and 38 to recite features of Claim 29 found patentable by the Examiner. No new matter has been added.

This response cancels Claims 16 and 29 without prejudice.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection

Claims 15, 28 and 38-39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of Chiang (U.S. Patent No. 6,515,635) and further in view of Ito (U.S. Patent No. 6,337,668). Claims 26-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of Chiang, Ito and further in view of Sievenpiper (U.S. Patent No. 6,366,254).

Applicants acknowledge with gratitude the Examiner's indication of allowability as to Claims 1-11, 16-25, 29-38 and 40. Applicants traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 15, 26-28 and 38-39 and disagree that these claims are obvious in view of U.S. Patent No.

6,515,635, U.S. Patent No. 6,337,668, and U.S. Patent No. 6,366,254. However, in the interest of moving this application to issue, Applicants have amended Claim 15 to include limitations of Claim 16 found patentable by the Examiner in the Office Action and cancelled Claim 16 without prejudice, expressly reserving the right to present these or any other rejected claims or claims directed to other disclosed subject matter in a future divisional or continuation application. Applicants have also amended Claims 28 and 38 to include limitations of Claim 29 found patentable by the Examiner in the Office Action and cancelled Claim 29 without prejudice, expressly reserving the right to present these or any other rejected claims or claims directed to other disclosed subject matter in a future divisional or continuation application.

The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to discuss any other issues requiring resolution.

Conclusion

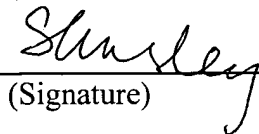
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Post Office with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents POB 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

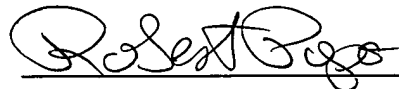
March 20, 2006
(Date of Deposit)

Shannon Tinsley
(Name of Person Signing)


(Signature)

March 20, 2006
(Date)

Respectfully submitted,



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